

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending. Claims 1, 8 and 9 are independent claims.

Restriction Requirement

While claim 5 was held to be withdrawn from further consideration as originally identified claim 1 was a generic claim. Claim 1 has been amended, it is still considered to be a generic claim. Accordingly, upon the allowance of claim 1 a rejoinder of claim 5 is requested.

Foreign Priority

The indication that the foreign priority document has been received and placed in the file is noted.

Drawings

In section 2 of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to.

A proposed correction to the drawings is enclosed. Upon approval by the Examiner, formal corrected drawings will be filed within the time period set by the Patent Office.

Objection to the Disclosure

In section 3 of the disclosure on page 7, line 7 was objected to. A correction has been made in accordance with the Examiner's instructions.

For the reasons set forth above, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection to the specification.

Claim 8 was objected to as explained in section 4 of the Office Action. Claim 8 has been amended along the lines as suggested by the Examiner.

For the reasons set forth above, the objection to claim 8 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Reply to Art Rejections

Claims 1-3 and 6-7 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Rashid et al. '060. This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to provide that the perimeter (element 12) has a substantially open inner area. In the reference, the door reinforcement 14 (see Fig. 1) does not have an open area as clearly seen in the figure. Accordingly, as each and every element in the claim is not shown specifically or inherently in the reference a rejection under 35 USC 102 is not viable.

Additionally, although claim 1 has been amended, there would be no motivating reason outside the Applicant's own disclosure to modify the reference to arrive at the claimed subject matter. It will be noted that the result of the structure 12 as claimed provides a device that is more easily handled and is of less weight as compared to the reference. Results must be considered in arriving at a conclusion of obviousness.

With respect to claims 2, 3 and 6-7, these are dependent claims and are considered patentable at least for the same reasons as their base or intervening claims.

For the reasons set forth above, the Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 USC 102.

Objection to the Claims

In Section 7 and 8 in the Office Action, claims 4, 8 and 9 were objected to. These claims have been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the original claim 1. Accordingly, these claims are now in allowable condition.

New Claim

New claim 10 has been added.

With respect to claim 10, while considered allowable at least for the same reasons as claim 1 (amended) also provides that the inner panel has a substantially U-shape which has an uninterrupted upwardly open portion. This is seen in Figure 1. The structure is not obvious from the reference. Especially this structure provides an advantage (result) as explained in the specification, page 9, second full paragraph. This improved result must be considered in arriving at a conclusion of obviousness.

Additional Art Cited

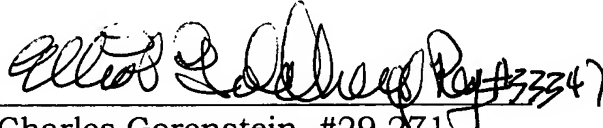
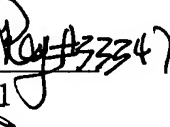
Additional art was cited and noted on section 9 of the Office Action. As this art has not been applied, no further comments are considered necessary.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Elliot Goldberg (Reg. No. 33,347) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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